

Dear FCC:

I am very concerned that the BPL system being proposed, and tested in various cities now, will greatly hamper emergency communications in this country. As has been shown by the 9/11 tragedy, and natural disasters such as tornado, hurricane and flood, amateur radio operators are needed to step in and provide emergency communications for agencies such as the Salvation Army and Red Cross. Other types of communications systems such as cell phones, and local agency radio systems, depend on infrastructure such as the local power grid, antenna towers, and relay points, to function. They are also easily overloaded in times of emergency such as these. Amateur radio operators are trained to operate independent of infrastructure needs, and provide a completely separate backup communications system that is always available under these circumstances. However, due to the extremely high levels of interference noise generated by the BPL systems, which have the unintended effect of using the power lines as large antennas that broadcast noise, the frequencies that amateur radio operators use for these emergency communications are impossible to use effectively, greatly hampering these efforts to support the agencies providing emergency relief. See test measurements at www.arrl.org, showing the noise generated, and it is clear that the use of BPL is not in the best interests of the people of the United States. Other countries such as Japan have voted to not use BPL for these very same reasons.

Thank you,
Kenneth Paulson